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HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES



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HARVARD LIBRARY

NOTES

JUNE

No. 8

1922

THE Committee appointed by the Board of Overseers to visit the University Library inspected the Library on May 9th. The Committee met at four o'clock in the Treasure Room, where, in informal conversation with the officers of the Library, the affairs of the previous year were touched upon.

The volumes selected from the great collection of the 'Imitation of Christ,' given by Mr. James Byrne, on exhibition in the cases, were examined with interest.

The Committee later visited many of the special libraries on the third floor, including the Theatre Collection, Map Room, and the Wendell Collection of Portraits and Views; examined the stack, and noted the need of additional tables for some of the stalls still empty, and finally reached the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Room, where tea was served at five o'clock by Mrs. Livingston.

Mr. Appleton entertained the Committee, the Members of the Library Council, and other guests, at dinner at the Somerset Club. After dinner, Mr. Coolidge spoke of the activities of the Library during the last two years. Mr. Lane illustrated some of the problems which confront the administration. Mr. Winship reported that the members of the staff have taken a gratifying share in the task of supplying material for the LIBRARY NOTES. The NOTES are published with funds contributed by members of the Committee, and assurances were given later which will provide for their continuation during the ensuing year.

Professor George Foot Moore spoke for the Library Council, and Mr. Hay expressed the appreciation of the guests to their host.

The members of the Committee present at tea or later at the Somerset Club were the Chairman, Mr. Francis R. Appleton, Mr. William A. White, Mr. Harold Murdock, Mr. Allen Curtis, Mr. William S. Patten, Mr. Clarence L. Hay, Mr. William K. Richardson, Mr. Henry S. Howe, Mr. Augustin H. Parker, and Mr. Robert P. Perkins.

* * *

WITH the employment of an additional forwarder on March 1st and some redistribution of work, the output of the Library Bindery has been materially increased since that time. From July 1, 1921 to March 1st of this year, 2703 books and 42 newspapers were bound. Since March 1st, the output has been 2472 volumes and 632 pamphlets. Our statistics show also that the Bindery has handled since July 1st for Departments of the University 1853 volumes, twenty-nine Department and Special Libraries being represented in this count. M. F. B.

* * *

WITH the \$500.00 available this year for binding items from the Wendell Collection and with the later addition of \$200.00 from an anonymous donor, we have been able to bind 310 volumes and 978 pamphlets. At a rough estimate, the cost of the Wendell binding still to be done will amount to between \$4000.00 and \$5000.00.

* * *

A WINTER's visitor, Mr. Wm. K. Boyd of "The South Atlantic Quarterly," in a note of appreciation for the library's hospitality, picks out as the two things he remembered most pleasantly, that he "found the classification system the easiest to master of any that I have known. Also the stacks were the cleanest of any that I have been in among the large libraries."

A SELECTION of books and other objects from the Evert J. Wendell collection will be on exhibition in the Treasure Room during the Cambridge meeting of the Associated Harvard Clubs.

* * *

IN the past year about three thousand books and pamphlets in Spanish have been catalogued and made ready for the binder. Nearly half of these formed a notable collection of Spanish plays, ranging in date through two centuries, and many of them rare. Among the remainder were works of fiction, history, religion, description and travel and books on many special topics.

Books coming from Latin-American countries are of special interest, not only because of the able manner in which matters of genuine importance are dealt with, but also because of the surprisingly excellent book-work, the typography, binding and illustrating being in many instances of a high order of merit. Argentina takes the lead both in amount and quality of production, but Brazil, Peru and one or two of the smaller countries follow closely. Even distracted Mexico now and then turns out a work of importance that is interestingly written and well made. A recent example is the 'Historia de la Iglesia en México,' by P. Mariano Cuevas, S. J., published in Tlalpam in 1921. The book is well bound, printed on excellent paper, illustrated with many curious wood-cuts and photographs of ancient documents and hieroglyphics, and is enriched with a beautifully illuminated title-page. It is a volume that would do credit to the book-maker's art anywhere, and is only one of several similar works.

The periodical reviews received are interesting and contain many articles of a serious character that are well worth while. Many of the Latin-American writers are past masters of sarcasm, and their articles on international affairs are often severe, even truculent; they fairly bristle with perhaps not altogether undeserved 'digs' at

'The Colossus of the North' and the 'Yanquis.' The 'Baltimore' and 'Itata' affairs have not been forgotten. It is not easy to forget defeat even when it is accomplished by diplomacy, and not by force of arms.

For the purpose of ascertaining the full names of authors whose names do not appear on the title-pages of their books in complete form, and also to learn something of the literary history of various authors, their environment and the influences that have directed their intellectual ambitions, correspondence has been had with Spanish publishers, literary societies, and in some cases with the authors themselves. Replies to letters sent to American consuls in Spain and in South America have been received within a reasonable length of time, and have furnished interesting and helpful information. But unfortunately in Spain, as in Mexico, the 'mañana' habit — never doing today what can be put off until tomorrow — appears still to survive and to have negative vigor; so that answers to letters of inquiry have been delayed for several months, and in many cases have been altogether wanting. Nevertheless, there have been enough replies to furnish encouragement for further effort to secure the desired information. Moreover, there is a certain amount of 'give' as well as 'take.' The correspondence therefore seems to be establishing an exchange of useful information. It is apparent from the receipt of letters from such places as Burgos and Bilbao, addressed to Harvard College, Cambridge, *England*, that the fame of Harvard has penetrated to the remoter communities of the Iberian Peninsula ahead of accurate knowledge as to its habitat.

M. L. C.

* * *

ONE of the curiosities of collecting has appeared in connection with the 1808 edition of Izaak Walton's "Complete Angler," published in London by Samuel Bagster.

Harvard has six copies, with variations in size and pag-

ing, three printed by C. Mercier and Co., St. Paul's Churchyard, three by Mercier and Chervet, Little Bartholomew Close. The former should have at the end a leaf of Bagster's advertisements, beginning "This day is published," and called for by the catchword "This" at the foot of the last page. Those printed by Mercier and Chervet have neither the advertisements nor the catchword.

Only one of our copies contains the leaf of advertisements, and this came, not like the others, from the wonderful collection of angling books given by Mr. Daniel B. Fearing, or from the earlier Bartlett Collection, but from Mr. Walter Faxon's library of general literature, received by bequest in 1921.

E. A. T.

* * *

FIFTY percent of known perfection seems to be, from several recent tests, sufficient to justify honorable mention of the Library. Both the Savonarola collection and the *Rappresentazione*, mentioned in a preceding issue of these NOTES, comprise about half the number of titles listed in the bibliographies. A rough estimate of editions procurable of the 'Imitatio Christi' shows that the Library has, in what is probably the largest collection anywhere, rather less than this proportion.

Six different issues of a reprint of 'The New-England Primer,' at Harvard, led Mr. Winship into an investigation which brought to light as many more variations scattered in several other collections. A student of Aesop reports that Harvard has about half the editions of the Fables to be found in the larger American libraries. It is estimated by another investigator to have about half the collectable American drama.

A few special collections come much nearer to being complete. The Morris H. Morgan Persius collection grows at the rate of about one early edition each year. The purchase of John Donne's 'Conclave Ignatii' of 1611

was the first addition which it has been possible to make to the Charles Eliot Norton collection of his writings, for several years. Only one of the three first editions of Dryden not in the library has come to the notice of the Order Department for two or three years. Little has been added to the Marshall C. Lefferts' Pope collection. The agent who supplies Eighteenth Century imitations of Aesop has apparently exhausted this field. Professor Palmer no longer finds desired additions to the shelves containing his George Herbert collection. The Milton collection, which has grown from the gift made by George Ticknor, now stands at about eighty percent of the editions shown at the comprehensive exhibition made at Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1908, according to the checked catalogue.

* * *

THE Thomas à Kempis collection includes, besides a long series of the collected works, a considerable number of separate editions of his other writings. There are also over a hundred books and pamphlets dealing with the successive controversies that have arisen between 1621 and the present day, concerning the authorship of the 'Imitatio.'

* * *

THE previous issue of these notes is already out of print. The return of copies will be greatly appreciated.

IMITATIO CHRISTI

THE outstanding characteristic of the recent history of the Harvard Library has been the consistent following of two apparently inconsistent policies. One of these has insisted upon a clearly understood, definite policy of development; the other is the frankest opportunism. The first is the development of the movement which became clearly defined during Mr. Winsor's administration, which has transformed a library conducted for the needs of college undergraduates into an institution which tries to anticipate the wants of research students and of productive scholars. The College Library continues as a part of the general University equipment, serving the daily academic requirements of some twenty-five hundred young men. The University Library, as represented in the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Building, caters directly to the five hundred men and women who are being trained by the Harvard Graduate Schools in the methods of research; to those members of the faculties who are actively extending the range of their knowledge of the Humanities; and, most important of all, to the relatively small number of those who are investigating or writing here upon subjects wherein they find the Harvard Library helpful. The policy of the present administration has been to acquire whenever opportunity offers everything that may be desired by those who seek to use its resources for productive scholarship. The result has been that the Library periphery, which used to be almost as sharply defined as that of the moon, has come to resemble much more that of the sun, with a circumference of radiating jets.

The most recent of these projecting rays to appear is perhaps somewhat narrow, but long and very brilliant. It admirably illustrates the way the administrative policy operates. It was a New Year's present, from Mr. James

Byrne of the Corporation, of 1540 different editions of the 'Imitatio Christi.' The transference of these volumes from an attic in Manchester, England, to the Harvard Treasure Room, brings to the view of the interested world a visible demonstration of the fact that, except for the Bible, this work has been printed more often, and has been distributed more widely than any other thing ever written. This fact with its varied implications can now be examined at Harvard better than anywhere else. The British Museum is the only rival, and it is by no means certain that even there, where the facilities for study can not be made as easy as they now are at Harvard, there is more material to work with, in this specific field. The opportunism lies in another fact, that on the morning in which it was learned that this collection could be bought for a reasonable price, few things were further from the conscious thought of the library administration than the visible *Imitation of Christ*.

The "Imitatio" has for some years had an established place in the second rank of the Order Department schedule, and copies of significant editions have been bought as they were noticed in catalogues, whenever the money for them was available.

The first group in that schedule, in which the 'Imitatio' now takes a place, is made up of the subjects wherein the library is exceptionally strong. A new Aesop, Boethius or Persius, a Donne, Dryden, or Pope, an English ballad or a tale of witchcraft, is ordered first and the funds allocated afterward. The 'Imitatio' has heretofore been in the larger group of subjects represented creditably, but without special distinction. There were nearly three shelves full, which seemed like a fair representation for a single work. It will now occupy eight sections of seven shelves each, or 170 feet of shelving, with no allowance for future growth. As 16 additions, by gift or purchase, have come to the library since the collection was received, this is clearly far from being a 'closed' subject.

It is typical of the extraordinary range which the collecting of such a work as this offers, that over a third of the copies already in the library were not found in the collection from England. A striking illustration of the curious way in which the old and new copies often dovetailed together was afforded by the two copies of the superb large-quarto edition printed by Bodoni at Parma. Harvard has long had, though unaware of its special interest, one of the few copies of this issued with the original date, 1792. The new one, like most others, has the imprint altered to 1793. Similarly, although of less importance, copies printed at Leipzig in 1847, at Paris in 1736 and in 1773, at Vienna in 1699, and London in 1706, proved to be quite distinct bibliographically.

It was gratifying to find that there were other ways in which the library's previous possessions could hold their own with the newcomers. It had a Bohemian edition of 1843, two years earlier than any of the three new ones in this language. It had two in Breton, dated 1850 and 1912, as against only one, 1895. A Celtic edition of 1875 and a Scots version of 1913 add two languages to the 57 represented in the collection. An edition printed in Provençal at Avignon in 1913 supplements two, 1876 and 1879, printed at Marseilles and at Orleans. A Slovenian edition of 1867 matches one of 1888. The library had a perfect copy of the Welsh edition of 1775, of which the new copy lacked its title page, and the latest edition, 1908; one of 1872 fits in neatly between the other two.

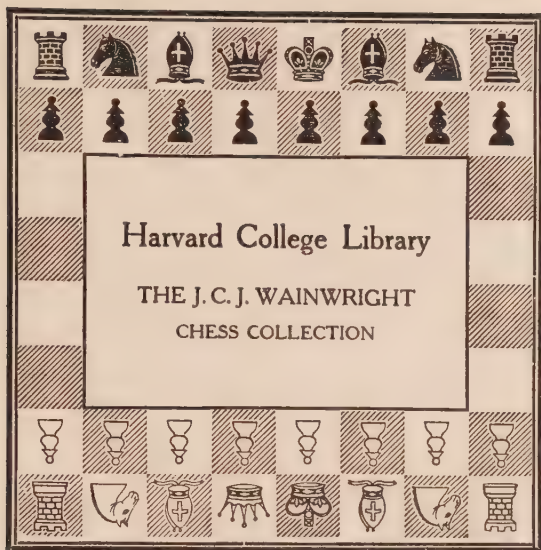
Less surprising was the finding of several American editions antedating that of Baltimore, 1833, the earliest in the new collection. Among these were such unexpected imprints as Stanford, Dutchess County, N. Y., 1803, and New Bedford, 1805. A succession of Boston editions are evidence of a steady demand for this book during the period of active religious controversy in early nineteenth-century New England. Most surprising of all is the copy of the Cologne edition of 1675, which was given to Har-

vard by Middlecott Cooke, Esq., of Boston in October, 1764; in which is written, 'Elisha Cooke eius liber ex dono Amicae suae Sarah Leverett, July the lastt Anno Domini 1693.' At least one pious Puritan matron did not abhor this product of Romanism.

These examples of what Harvard already possessed, among the 38 titles it added to the 1540 in Mr. Byrne's gift, have been given as the simplest illustration of the, as yet scarcely explored, riches of the new collection. This collection was made by the Manchester lawyer, William A. Copinger, whose bibliographical publications give him an assured place in bookish annals. He contemplated adding the 'Imitatio' to the other subjects, Fifteenth Century books and the Bible, of which he printed the results of prolonged study. This collection was intended to supply him with the necessary material. The extent of this material which he gathered may well account for his failure to publish more than two contributions to the subject, a privately printed monograph 'On The English Translations of the Imitation of Christ,' Manchester, 1900; and a new translation, Glasgow, 1900.

In addition to the editions of the 'Imitatio,' which begin with the princeps of 1471, the collection included ten manuscript copies. Three of these were originally a part of the famous library of the Carthusian monks at Buxheim, and one is thought to be the actual copy from which the text of the first printed edition was derived. The facsimile of the manuscript of 1441, at Brussels, which is believed to be in the hand of Thomas à Kempis, is a special copy printed on vellum for Mr. Edmund Waterton. Mr. Waterton's collection of the 'Imitatio' was very large, and the greater part of it passed into the hands of Mr. Copinger and is now at Harvard.

G. P. W.



THE J. C. J. WAINWRIGHT CHESS COLLECTION

THE LIBRARY has recently received an interesting and valuable addition to its collection of works on the game of chess. These books were presented by Mr. Alain C. White, '02, of Litchfield, Connecticut, who has at different times in the past been a generous contributor to the Harvard shelves. Mr. White wrote concerning the collections as follows:

Litchfield, Conn., Sept. 14, 1921.

Dear Mr. Lane:

Under the Will of the late Mr. J. C. J. Wainwright, I have received a well selected collection of works about chess problems. I should like to present these to the Harvard College Library, and have asked Mr. John F. Barry, of 18 Tremont Street, Boston, acting for Mr. Wainwright's estate, to take up with you the matter of the gift. I should like to see these books added to the collection of books about chess which I gave you from my own Library a few years ago, and to have the whole called the J. C. J. Wainwright collection.

Mr. Wainwright was a distinguished composer of chess problems, his active career extending about forty years from 1881 to his death two months ago. He was also the friend and correspondent of nearly all the other American problemists of this period, and exercised a distinctive personal influence by his encouragement of beginners and by his always ready support cheerfully offered where it was needed.

It seems to me very fitting that the books on chess in the Harvard

Library should form a collection to perpetuate his name, and it will certainly be very welcome to me to have such works as I may have given you heretofore transferred to such a collection. If such a collection may at any time be of service to others, it will simply be carrying on the service he rendered so generously in his own life-time.

Sincerely yours,

Alain C. White.

To the biographical details concerning Mr. Wainwright given in this letter there may be added a few taken from an article in memory of Mr. Wainwright which appeared in the July-August, 1921, number of the 'American Chess Bulletin,' written by his friend, Mr. Henry W. Barry, long problem editor of that publication. Mr. Wainwright, born in Birmingham, England, December 10, 1851, came to this country at the age of seventeen and early began those contributions of problems to chess columns and magazines which have made his name one of the most renowned in the problem world. He officiated as judge in important international problem tournaments with such celebrities as Messrs. Loyd, Shinkman, Pospisil, Carpenter, Bettman, Reichhelm, Miles, Joseph and Perry. In several instances he acted as sole judge. As a solver he made complete scores in solving tournaments in 1881, 1885, and 1888, and won international solving prizes as well. Suddenly stricken with cerebral hemorrhage, he died at his home in Needham, Massachusetts, July 12, 1921.

The collection of Mr. Wainwright's books which the Library has received consists mainly of volumes of problems, about a dozen of Mr. A. C. White's own works being included. Many of the most valuable problem works are included, some being presentation copies to Mr. Wainwright as tournament awards, or as gifts from Mr. Henry W. Barry, who was his most intimate friend in the chess world. The memorial volume, 'Chess Lyrics,' to the blind problem composer Arthur Mackenzie, which contains all his problems, is probably the rarest volume of the collection, but there is none which would not be of interest to a student of chess problems.

Among the volumes previously presented to the Library by Mr. White is the extremely rare Italian edition of 1534 of Jacopo de Cessole. This work was written about the eleventh century by a monkish author and is the original of Caxton's 'Game and Playe of the Chesse.' The 1534 edition is a small octavo which bears the lengthy title: 'Opera nvova nella-quale se insegna il vero regimento delli huomini & delle done di qualunque grado, stato, e condition esser si voglia: Composta per lo Reuerendissimo Padre Frate Giacobbo da Cesole del ordine di predicatori sopra il giuoco delli Scacchi, Intitulata Costume Delli Huomini, & vfficii delli nobeli, nuouamente Stampata. MDXXXIIII.' The colophon adds 'Stampata in Vineggia per Francesco di Alessandro Bindoni, & Mapheo Pasini compagni: 1534. del mese di Zenaro.' The leaves are numbered 1-32, 41-56. The copy given by Mr. White is splendidly preserved and bound in the original vellum.

Of equal rarity and even more importance in chess literature is the first edition of the treatise by Ruy Lopez, a Spaniard who won his bishopric through his proficiency at the game. Although the first Italian edition of his book, printed at Venice in 1584, is of quite common occurrence, the original in Spanish is by no means so easy to secure. This 'Libro de la Invencion Liberal y Arte del juego del Axedrez' was printed at Alcala in 1561. The Harvard copy is of especial interest on account of the interesting letter pasted on the fly-leaf, which was received with the book on August 13, 1849:

St. Augustine, F.

Dear Sir:

I have sent you for the shelves of Harvard Library a Spanish work on *Chess*, by Ruy Lopez Segura, 1561.

I am ignorant of its value, but I understand that the title is not in your Catalogue, & I have a lively recollection of the liberality of the University in the loan of its valuable books.

Very Resp'y yours,

Buckingham Smith.

Dr. T. W. Harris, Librarian, etc., etc.

As Mr. Smith apparently obtained the book in St. Augustine, a lively imagination would suggest that it might easily have been the relic of some old Spanish colonist. The work is an octavo of 8 and 150 leaves, some of which contain interesting marginal notes in Spanish, written in an early hand.

The treatise of Tomasso Azzio ranks in rarity with the Lopez and de Cessole and is probably unique in its manner of considering the game. Azzio was a lawyer and his book, replete with quotations from many classical authors, endeavors to find points of analogy between chess and the law. The title of the work is: 'Thomae Actii Forosempronensis de Ludo Scacchorum in Legali Methodo Tractatus. Pisauri apud Hieronymum Concordiam, MDLXXXIII.'

The book contains a full-page engraved portrait of the author, who towards the end of the work asserts that it was composed during the period of four months, for his personal amusement. The volume in the Treasure Room was given to the College by Thomas Hollis sometime between 1764 and 1776. It bears the earlier armorial bookplate of William Hall, Esq.

The rarest work in the Harvard chess collection, however, is undoubtedly the copy of the 1689 edition of Thomas Hyde's 'Shahiludium traditum in tribus scriptis Hebraicis quae sunt Rabbi Abraham Abben-Ezrae elegans Poema rythmicum: R. Bonsenior Abben-Jachiae facunda Oratio prosaica: Liber Deliciae Regum Prosa Stylo puriore, per Innominatum. E Theatro Sheldoniano, MDCLXXXIX.' The book gives on opposite pages the Hebrew original and the Latin translation by Hyde, who was professor of Oriental languages at Oxford. The poem of Abben-Ezra is translated into Latin verse. The work, a small octavo of 79 pages, is extremely rare and does not appear in the catalogues of the chess libraries of van der Linde, Preti, Allen, or Willing. The editions of 1690 and 1694 are quite common. These two editions were known to Dr. van der Linde and are listed in his 'Geschichte und Litteratur

des Schachspiels,' the standard chess bibliography, but he apparently did not possess a copy of the first, 1689, edition.

Among the more ordinary volumes in the collection, the 'Elements of Chess, Boston, 1805,' is probably the most interesting. It was the first book on chess to be published in New England and the second in the western hemisphere. Although only one of the numerous editions of Philidor's 'Analysis' which were being published at this time, the book has an amusing appendix which seems to reflect the influence upon the editor of the democratic sentiment of the time and place. He declares that the names given the pieces are 'totally inapplicable' and suggests that king, queen, rook, bishop, knight and pawn be changed to 'governor,' 'general,' 'colonel,' 'major,' 'captain' and 'pioneer.' Truly a strong flavor of colonial New England for the 'noble game'!

Of later works on chess the Library has quite a few although hardly any are of the kind to which the 'practical' player of the present would devote his attention: most of them are now chess history. The future however should bring a splendid collection both of the current works on the game and of the historical rarities, especially since there must be many graduates with chess libraries who will share in adding the superstructure to the foundation of the J. C. J. Wainwright collection.

ADRIEN GAMBET, '25.

SELECTIONS FROM A MONTH'S CHRONICLE

- May 4. M. Maurice Donnay and M. André Chevrillon, Delegates from the French Academy to the American celebration of the tercentenary of the birth of Molière, inspected the Library's collection of the writings of Molière. This includes a number of early editions from the library of Professor Ferdinand Bôcher, given by Mr. James Hazen Hyde, '98, in 1903.

- May 5. Three cases from Allen & Son of London received; 153 volumes, 25 pamphlets, 1 map. Largely continuations on regular orders, with a small lot of tracts on currency and banking, 1815-1844.
- May 6. Mrs. Franklin Gordon Dexter presented 'The Wedding Journey of Charles and Martha Babcock Amory,' of which 100 copies were printed at the Merrymount Press.
- May 8. Professor F. W. C. Hersey gave a number of additional volumes which he requires the students in his courses to read. Mr. Edward Switzer Allen, '09, of Morgantown, W. Va., sent a bundle of German newspapers, supplementing earlier gifts.
- May 9. The Overseers Committee visited the Library.
Gen. A. W. Greeley sent a number of volumes from his library, as well as many of his own writings.
- May 11. Professor A. B. Hart gave 200 volumes, including duplicate copies of books reserved for students of Government.
- May 13. Three boxes arrived from Harrassowitz of Leipzig; invoice 129,097.55 marks for 1047 items, an average cost of 36 cents. One box from Nijhoff of The Hague; invoice 395.55 gulden. These shipments contain, as is ordinarily the case, a third standing or continuation orders and the balance orders from booksellers' catalogues.
- May 15. Set of 'The Pacific Monthly' 1898-1911, received from Arthur H. Clark Co., Cleveland; charged to Horace Davis fund.
- May 16. Mr. W. B. Osgood Fields, Vice-President of the Grolier Club, with Mrs. Fields, inspected the Harry Elkins Widener Collection.
Mr. Winship spoke at a meeting of the Society of Printers on some of the Library's examples of early sixteenth century French typography.
- May 18. Four cases arrived from Champion of Paris; including 216 volumes of the 'Mercure Galant' and 'Mercure de France,' from 1627 to 1808; 'Les Fresques a Saint Marc de Florence'; The 'Memoires' of the Société des Antiquaires de Picardie; Almanacs Royaux, 1742-1866 (toward completing the library set); and a collection of the writings of G. Peignot.
A case containing 50 eighteenth century French maps arrived from L. Didon, an inn-keeper of Perigueux.
- May 22. Mr. William A. Clark, Jr., presented the index volume to complete the printed Catalogue of his library.
- May 25. Three boxes received from Picard of Paris; invoice 14, 149. 20 francs. Largely current publications, but with many old books, the earliest dated 1477.
- May 27-29. Thomas à Kempis Collection catalogued and entered.



